
REBECCA SPENCER
Registrar of Voters



ART TINOCO
Assistant Registrar of Voters

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)
January 29, 2015 | 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members:

Committee members have not yet been selected

Registrar of Voters Staff:

Rebecca Spencer, Registrar of Voters
Art Tinoco, Assistant Registrar of Voters
Julie Caban, Committee Chair
Larry Smith, Committee Co-chair

Meeting Commenced at 10:05 a.m.

I. Welcome/Introductions

At this inaugural Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) meeting, introductions were made by the following staff: Registrar Rebecca Spencer, Assistant Registrar Art Tinoco, Committee Chair Julie Caban, Committee Co-Chair Larry Smith. Following staff introductions, attendees of the meeting made introductions.

II. Local Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

Mr. Art Tinoco stated that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss Riverside County's local VAAC using the Secretary of State's (SOS) guide as a model, which also is available to view online at the SOS's website. Local VAAC's provide a forum for disabled and senior communities to bring concerns to the Registrar of Voters' attention and to assist and provide recommendations regarding voting accessibility issues throughout the county. Mr. Tinoco stated that the VAAC is open for anyone to become a committee member or for anyone to attend the committee as a non-member. VAAC meetings will be conducted quarterly on the last Thursday of the month. Teleconference capabilities will be made available for future meetings. Mr. Tinoco added that in order to become a committee member, one should complete an application, which will be given to the VAAC distribution list. According to the SOS's VAAC guide, the minimum number of committee members that Riverside County's VAAC should be comprised of is seven. This number is based off of the current number of registered voters in Riverside County. Committee members will be required to attend at least 20 hours of VAAC meetings to maintain membership. Substitutes may attend on behalf of members, as needed. Interested participants should submit their application by the end of February 2015. Ms. Ruthee Goldkorn noted that the application should include a section that

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asks applicants if they have a disability and if they need accommodations. Mr. Tinoco stated that the application was reproduced from the SOS's VAAC guide, but that the recommended changes will be considered. Mr. Foster Tucker suggested that the VAAC meeting rotate to different locations throughout the county to reach other interested participants. Also, suggestions were received for posting meeting details in the newspaper to attract participants from diverse qualifications and organizations.

III. Registrar of Voters Accessibility Efforts in Riverside County

Ms. Julie Caban, Committee Chair, reviewed the accessibility efforts that are currently in place in Riverside County, which include: early voting, vote-by-mail, internet access to pamphlets and sample ballots, electronic voting machines with audio and large print, and 600 accessible facilities for polling places. Ms. Caban added that each facility is surveyed for accessibility according to the SOS guidelines. If the facility does not meet the guidelines, staff proceeds with mitigation efforts. Ms. Goldkorn suggested that ROV staff consider facilities with close proximities to transportation for those who have transportation needs. Ms. Goldkorn recommended that the ROV recruit volunteer poll workers who have disabilities. In addition, she recommended that at least one poll worker per polling place attend a special training aside from their regular training for persons with disabilities. The attendees collectively agreed that the current poll worker training video does not stress enough the importance of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Ms. Rebecca Spencer added that the ROV currently is working on creating a new ADA Inspector position and program with extensive training on mitigating and maintaining accessibility at each polling place. The group also discussed the length of the video, stating that it does not seem long enough. Mr. Tinoco explained that the goal is to maintain focus of volunteer poll workers without losing interest but long enough to ensure adequacy and efficiency. Additionally, it was mentioned that online training might be a better way of providing training for poll workers in this technology-driven era. With online training, volunteer poll workers would be able to receive training at their own pace. In this case, training could be longer and more extensive and those who would have difficulties accessing online training could still attend classroom-style training. Ms. Goldkorn stated that poll worker training should be made mandatory in order for volunteers to be eligible to participate in the program. In regards to training, Ms. Spencer informed the group that content and materials will be revised and improved.

IV. Status Report on the State VAAC

Mr. Larry Smith, Committee Co-Chair, serves as a committee member on the SOS VAAC. He stated that Riverside County's VAAC will be comparable to the SOS VAAC. SOS reviewed polling place accessibility requirements and made the following changes: revamped voter registration website which is now more accessible and user friendly; tested and assessed new

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voting technology; and reviewed polling place accessibility video to make changes according to new legislation. Mr. Smith noted that these changes were provided in the attendee packets for review. He added that the same information is available on the SOS website. Mr. Smith affirmed that the SOS VAAC is committed to continuing their program; however, meetings for 2015 have not yet been scheduled.

V. Polling Place Accessibility Surveyor Training Video

Mr. Smith stated that Riverside County's VAAC intends to review and assess portions of the SOS/ROV Polling Place Accessibility Surveyor Training Video at each meeting. (A clip of the video was shown to the attendees).

VI. 2015 Election Schedule

Ms. Caban informed the committee that there are three elections in Riverside County in 2015: City of Riverside General Municipal Election (mail ballot) on June 2, 2015; General District Election under Uniform District Election Law (UDEL) for land owner districts and special districts (mail ballot) on August 25, 2015; Consolidated UDEL Election for school districts, city councils, and special districts on November 3, 2015.

Ms. Caban reiterated that VAAC will take place quarterly. The next scheduled meeting is April 30, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. The location will be determined at a later date.

VII. Questions/Comments

At the close of the meeting, Ms. Spencer informed the committee that VAAC member applications will be sent to the VAAC distribution list. Additionally, meeting minutes will be ready for review 30 days after the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 11:45 a.m.